

AMONG OUR FRIENDS . . .

MICHAEL HERMAN VISITOR

Michael Herman, noted folk dance director of New York City, was a Chicago visitor during the end of April and visited the VILTIS office, where, Mrs. Charlotte Chen and the editor spent a delightful visit talking "shop" about folk dancing. He was on his way from St. Paul where he attended the International Festival which he enjoyed greatly.

AL URBAN MR. AMERICA JUDGE

VILITITE Al Urban, world's foremost physique photographer, was once again chosen to act judge for the selection of 1947 Mr. America when the best-built men in the United States will gather at Lane High School on June 28-29. Sixty Apollos will compete. Johnny Weismuller of the Tarzan fame is also one of the judges. Al Urban recently won a photo contest sponsored by the Strength and Health physique journal. The 1946 Mr. America title was held by Lithuanian Alan Steponaitis.

CHICAGO VISITOR

Mr. and Mrs. Al Childs (she, formerly Wenetta Grybas) and daughter Carol Ann, arrived in Chicago from Solana Beach, Cal., for a month's visit. Before the war Wenetta was active in Chicago's youth circles. She was a member of the Lithuanian University Club and of the Lithuanian Youth Society and was the dancing partner of V. F. Beliajus.

MRS. SPATER LEAVES FOR FRANCE

Mrs. Richard Spater with Susan, her 8 year old daughter, and George, her 2 year old son, of Fairhope, Alabama, left La Guardia Field, New York, via the Transatlantic plane "Constellation" to join Mr. Spater in France. Mr. Spater is the European traffic manager of the Trans-World Airlines. They will make their home at the edge of Marnes-las-Coquette, a small village southwest of Paris.

PFC CARL TORNBOOM

Californian Carl Tornbom, who is stationed in the Marine Section of Great Lakes, Illinois, though of Norwegian extraction, is becoming quite a Lithuanian. For the past three months, and every week-end, he has been visiting Chicago and attending various Lithuanian events: K. of L., L.U.C., Ateitis, Banquets for the Lithuanian President, or whatever the event might be. He is also a good friend of VILTIS and a booster of it. During the VILTIS program Carl proved to be of the greatest help at the door, admitting guests. He is the nephew of another very dear VILITITE friend, Mrs. Jerome Evanson, of Jamestown, N.D.

MORDY ARNOLD COLLEGE PAPER EDITOR

Fairhopean and VILITITE Mordy Arnold, a former S/Sgt. with the Marines who now is attending State Teachers College at Troy, Ala., was elected editor-in-chief of the "Tropolitan," a four page newspaper published by the college. Mordy is an excellent folk dancer and a folk dance vet.

ON THE SICK LIST

Two close VILITITE friends have been taken off the active list and were confined to beds for the last two months: Lucille Shotas, wife of Bruno who is an Ateitis folk dancer, suffered a relapse when she tried to return to her activities soon after an incomplete recovery from the flu. Lucille is very active in many Lithuanian youth organizations. Her absence was keenly felt.

Paul Martinson, who for over a year was on the Calcium Deficiency test, suffered a sudden collapse while

attending a square dance meet. He was rendered temporarily unconscious and placed in a hospital. This happened in Chicago while Paul was on his way home to Wichita, Kansas after completing his period of abstaining from sunshine and calcium at State College, Pennsylvania. We are happy to report that Paul, who belonged to the Polish folk dance group while he was stationed in Chicago, is now well on the road to recovery and is convalescing at the home of his sister, Mrs. Robert Cowan.

WEDDING BELLS

FINKELESTEIN-SPEAR

Alex Spear, handsome and excellent folk dancer, will terminate his wolfing days on June 14th when he will be married to gorgeous Edith Finkelstein at an orthodox wedding ritual at the Congress Hotel. Rabbi M. Teller of the South Side Hebrew Congregation will officiate. To Edith and Al a most sincere MAZAL TOV from their many friends among the Lithuanians, Poles, International House folks, Co-op people and various Zionist groups. Incidentally Al is a folk dance vet of many troupes; French, Polish, Lithuanian, Jewish and what have you.

ROSENBLUM-CHERKAS

On May 4, at the Shoreland Hotel, Miriam Rosenblum, former folk dancer and folk festival vet, was united in marriage to Byron Cherkas, in a very impressive ceremony. Rabbi Binstock, of Temple Shalom, officiated in accordance with the Conservative rites. Helen Wezker was the matron of honor, and Louis Wechter was best man. Bridesmaids were: Peggy Wolf and Edith Mitchell, and the ushers were Marshall Wechter, Walter Nathan, Marshall Cherkas, and Arnold Rosenblum. Miriam looked stunning in her wedding gown, as did the mothers of the bride and groom, both of them handsome women. The bride and groom did some beautiful dancing of Sambas, rhumbas and waltzes, the guests watching in admiration. V. F. Beliajus led the wedding party and guests into the wedding dance Karrerod, following which Miriam's grandmother, who came in from Minneapolis, led into a real Russian-Jewish Sher. It was a beautiful wedding—nearly three hundred guests participating—a sincere Mazal Tov.

BABIES



Kathleen Maureen Lavell arrived on April 27th 4:30 A.M. to George and Patsie McNamara Lavell, weighing 8 pounds and three ounces. Parents and offspring are doing well. Patsie, a graduate of St. Kazimir's Lithuanian Academy, was a member of LYS and a folk festival vet with the Lithuanian group. Inspite of all the Lithuanian influence, she did not name her Colleen Biruta Aldona or something on the order, but Kathleen Maureen which is as Irish as are the shamrocks in Erin. Go braugh to ye!

The PFD's of Northwestern University Settlement were happy to hear of the arrival of a new member. She is none other than Susan Beverly Makowska who was born on Palm Sunday March 30th, weighing 9 lbs. 1 oz. The proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Makowski (she, nee Felicia "Trixie" Niemiec). Susan is the second child as Stephan, Jr. is now 5 years old. "Mama Trixie" is one of the best Polish dancers in the PFD group and during the last Harvest Festival was none other than the Lady of the Manor.

CONDOLENCE EXTENDED TO



To Felicia Makowska upon the death of her father Mr. Wojciech (Adalbert) Niemiec, on May 3. Interment took place on May 6th at St. Adalbert's Polish cemetery after Requiem High Mass at old St. Stephan's church.

To Alfred Board upon the death of his mother Mrs. Francis Board at Fulton, Mo. on Tuesday, May 13th. Mr. Board, who is a Physical Education instructor with the Chicago Public Schools, and Mrs. Board, are avid folk dancers and active at the International House functions.

★ NOOK OF THE POLISH FESTIVAL DANCERS

For the past month the PFD'S were really a group of busy young people. Besides our regular rehearsals on Wednesday we have also been meeting on Sundays to get ready for the many performances that are scheduled for us.

On Wednesday, April 23rd we entertained a group of visitors at the N.U. Settlement with a presentation of an hour of Polish folk dances. After the program the visitors were invited to join us in a group of simple folk dances which Vyts Beliajus led and did we have a group of enthusiastic dancers who really had fun! They left us tired and happy showering compliments on the PFD's for their performance.

On Wednesday, April 30th at the invitation of Mr. Martin, a member of the regular staff of NUS the PFD's presented a program of Polish Folk Dances for the Sons of Norway at the Bjornstjerne Bjorson Lodge. We found a very interested audience most of whom never saw Polish folk dances before. As a surprise right in the middle of the program Vyts had us slip in a "Rhineland" an authentic Norwegian dance which was a hit as were the rest of our numbers including Vyts' solo Bali Bali temple dance. After the program everybody joined us in several folk dance mixers. Following a pause for refreshments we were invited to participate in the dance that took place after the program and had a hilarious time trying to learn the Norwegian ballroom dances from the "Natives."

May 10th was a red letter day, long awaited and rehearsed for. As everyone knows it was the day of the "Viltis" anniversary concert and program at the International House of the University of Chicago. We presented The Bialy Mazur and a Mazurka. The PFD's were very happy to have Eddie McNeil join us once again for this performance. As usual our dances received an enthusiastic ovation from the audience. We also had a joyous time before the program acting as ushers, handing out programs and collecting tickets, as well as after the performance when we stayed in costume for the dance that followed. The high spot of the dance that will long stay in our memory was the dancing of the "Krakowiak" one of our Polish national dances by some 75 couples practically all of whom were non-Poles but upon whose request the number was played by the orchestra and who really captured the spirit of the dance that requires much verve and temperament. It was a spectacle to behold!!!

Not all things that have been happening to us lately, however, have been very joyous for on Friday April 25th, Miss Frances Hall the head of the Women's Department of NUS died suddenly of a heart attack. Her death was quite a shock to the PFD's as well as to the rest of the

NUS people for no one knew that she suffered from a heart ailment and most of us saw her looking well and hearty just a few days before her death.

Emily and Mary Czernek

AS FOR MYSELF

May was a busy month for me, and an exciting one. The VILTIS concert and the St. Louis trip where my Polish and Lithuanian groups and I participated in the folk festival, were the two highlights of the month. Also, I saw many friends for the first time in five or more years: An old friend and an original VILITITE, the Rev. Rodney Shaw and his wife, Mary (Rodney was a Methodist chaplain in the army and saw oversea duty in Europe, is now attending Garrett Biblical Institute of the Northwestern U. in Evanston); and Mrs. Louis Siricevich, the former Madelene Kravica, an exotic Dalmatian beauty, and many others.

The VILTIS concert was an all 'round success; a large attendance and an enthusiastic crowd. The program, according to everyone, was of high caliber and went off smoothly. The presentation of the Resolution of Appreciation by the Don Varnas Post 986, thrilled me considerably. Jack Juozaitis acted as Master of Ceremonies during the presentation. During the Lithuanian folk dance part of the program, Mrs. Petras Dauvardis, wife of the Lithuanian consul in Chicago, dressed in her native costume, likewise heaped praise on yours truly. It seemed like an evening of testimonials as well as of entertainment. Her explanations of the Lithuanian dances made the Lithuanian section doubly interesting and many of the guests commented on her contribution. The audience was in the mood to praise everyone, and each artist truly deserved it. All in all, I was elated, to put it mildly.

Marine PFC Carl Tornbom (of great help to me during the concert), Bob Irrgang from Indianapolis, the Canadian Ukrainian dancer Myroslav Stodolny, and Floyd Morrone from Kenosha, Wis. came up to my studio after the performance. We had a gab fest that lasted until the wee-hours of the morning. Myroslav left for Windsor the following day. He certainly made a hit with his furious Kozak dances.

I was highly honored to be visited at my studio by Madame Kazys Grinius and her son Liutas. Madame Grinius is the wife of the former President of Lithuania. Dr. Grinius is the second Lithuanian president I have met, although I met neither one in Lithuania. Madame Grinius is a charming lady, greatly interested in my activities. It pleased me greatly that she came in person to learn about my work.

On May 20th I left for St. Louis, but about that trip and my trip to Toronto, see the July column. Meanwhile,

Pasimatysim Vys-Fin

During the Sunday sermon, a baby began to cry at the top of its voice, and its mother carried it toward the door. "Stop!" said the minister. "Your baby is not disturbing me."

The mother turned toward the pulpit and addressed the preacher:

"Oh, he isn't isn't he? Well, you're disturbing him."

"Well, mister," the farm woman replied when the census-taker inquired about the political faith of her family, "We-uns is kind o' mixed up. I'm Republican, my husband's a Democrat, the baby's a Wet, the cow's a Dry, and the dog belongs to the Reform Party."

"To the Reform Party?" queried the solicitor.

"Yes, mister," the woman affirmed, "you see, he don't do nothing but set around all day and howl."